Insects inhabiting freshwater and humid habitats in Finnmark, northern Norway

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A faunistic study of selected insect groups inhabiting freshwater and humid habitats in Finnmark, the northernmost part of mainland Norway was initiated in 2010. Fieldwork was conducted through three different 10–11 day excursions in the 2010-season and 107 localities were visited. Phase one of the project focused on the dipteran families Bolitophilidae, Chironomidae, Diadocidiidae, Keroplatidae, Mycetophilidae and Psychodidae as well as Trichoptera and aquatic Hemiptera, but material of other orders, especially Ephemeroptera, Neuroptera, Megaloptera and Plecoptera were also sorted out and identified. Here we present the general results of phase one and describe all visited localities. In total, 871 species were registered, 443 of these were new to Finnmark, 60 new to Norway, 12 new to Europe and at least 54 species are still unknown to science. Most species new to science were found in the families Chironomidae and Mycetophilidae, but so far only the psychodid, *Psychoda cultella* Salmela, Kvifte & More, 2012, has been described.

Key words: aquatic insects, new records, Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative, Artsprosjektet, DNA barcoding.

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Introduction

Although detailed biodiversity surveys of aquatic insects have been conducted for selected watersheds in Norway (e.g. Aagaard *et al.* 2004, Bergersen & Rubach 1986, Halvorsen *et al.* 1982, Huru 1981), studies covering large geographical areas, numerous taxonomic groups and a multitude of habitats are rare. The reasons might be many, but lack of funding opportunities for biodiversity inventories in the past certainly has played a major role. Now, projects that focus on species distributions of less known organism groups in Norway can be funded through the Norwegian Taxonomy Initiative, whose goal is to increase the knowledge of Norwegian species diversity and distribution. The results presented here and in the following eight papers (Andersen & Hagenlund